

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Highlights of Monthly Warning Reports for March 1988

FROM: Charles E. Allen
NIO for Warning
7B42, Hqs

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20 April 1988

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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 01443-88
20 April 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles E. Allen
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT: Highlights of Monthly Warning Reports for March 1988

Herewith are summaries of key warning issues compiled by the NIO for Warning from the monthly Intelligence Community meetings conducted by the NIOs in March. The judgments expressed are those of the Community unless otherwise noted. The NIOs' complete reports are attached.

Panama

General Noriega's effort to cling to power increases the likelihood of violence and prolongs Panama's recovery period.

- o Evidence is accumulating that the left wing of the ruling party is arming and preparing to challenge anti-Noriega elements.
- o The Soviets and their clients are likely to try to make inroads in Panama at the expense of the United States.

Angola/Cuba/South Africa

A major battle between Cuban and South African forces in southwestern Angola is increasingly likely.

- o Cuban and Angolan units have moved southward toward the Namibian border. The South Africans have not yet responded in a significant way.
- o The volatile military situation clouds prospects for US negotiations with the belligerents to end the war.

Israel/Palestinians

The Palestinian uprising is polarizing the Israeli electorate and aiding extremists the most. None of the country's leaders has the confidence of the

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people and the government is unlikely to make decisions on the peace process.

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USSR

The results of Moscow's efforts to control ethnic assertiveness in the Transcaucasus will have a significant impact on planning now underway for the Central Committee plenum on nationalities issues to be held, probably, in June.

- o Moscow will not grant demands that Nagorno-Karabakh be linked formally to Armenia, but instead will offer a series of concessions in the cultural and educational realms.
- o The NIO for USSR is not as certain as the Community that Armenians will accept rejection of their key demand; he believes that a new round of demonstrations and violence is possible.

Hungary

The mid-March demonstrations in Budapest--the largest since the 1956 revolution--set a benchmark for street protests demanding change.

- o The Party leadership is increasingly divided by demands for freedom of the press, free elections, and democratic reforms.
- o Economic woes could swell the ranks of the disaffected.

Ethiopia/Sudan

Recent rebel gains in northern Ethiopia have disrupted food relief and Addis Ababa has compounded the problem by banning foreign relief workers from Eritrea and Tigray.

- o A major movement of starving Ethiopians to Sudan is imminent.

South Africa

Government repression of the black population is likely to intensify, dashing hopes for political reform in the near term.

- o More strikes and student boycotts by blacks are likely on May Day and 16 June, the anniversary of the Soweto uprising.



Charles E. Allen

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